(d) whether BSNL is also gearing up to deploy Wi-Max in the rural areas where it is difficult to offer broadband connection over copper lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has ambitious plan to proliferate broadband in both urban and rural areas across the country in a progressive manner.

(b) Yes, Sir. With effect from 01-01-2007, all broadband customers, except customers with unlimited plan, have been upgraded to 2 Mbps at existing tariff, subject to technical feasibility.

(c) Present broadband customer base of BSNL across the country is 8.77 lakh. Initially, the minimum data rate was 256 Kbps which has now been upgraded to 2 Mbps, subject to technical feasiblity.

(d) Yes, Sir.

It exports and imports by India

1042. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IT exports worth sixty billion dollars are expected by the year 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which are importing IT products from India and the level of their imports; and

(d) the current level of import of software and hardware and likely import by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) it is expected that Computer Software and related service export (including ITES) will exceed US $ 60 billion by the year 2010.

(c) and (d) As per NASSCOM mainly USA and European countries are importing IT products from India; and level of imports for Financial Year 2006 are as follows:

USA		67.18%
Europe	:	25.13%
Rest of the world		7.69%

As per NASSCOM the current level of import of software and hardware from India in FY 2007 by other countries is estimated to be US$ 31,3 billion. The Indian IT Software and Services import by other country are targeted to reach US$ 60 billion by 2010; out of which US wilI accounts for nearly 2/3rd and Europe will accounts for 25 per cent.

Speed Post Centres in Assam

1043. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIGNSAND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Speed Post Centres in Assam, district-wise and city-wise;

(b) whether Government are likely to spread this facility in rural areas of Assam; and

(c) if so, the number of such Centres which would be opened in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) District-wise and city-wise details of Speed Post Centres in Assam is given in Statement-I (See below):

(b) Speed Post facility is available in the cities, towns and rural areas in Assam. The network of Speed Post service is extended as required taking into account the market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc.

(c) 10 Speed Post Booking Offices will be opened in rural areas. The names of these offices are given in Statement-ll.